

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 9, 2008. Claims 1 to 7, 10 to 17, 20 to 27, 30 to 37 and 40 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5, 8, 9, 11 to 15, 18, 19, 21 to 25, 28, 29, 31 to 35, 38, 39 and 41 to 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,719 (Bourdeau'Hui). Claims 10, 20, 30 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bourdeau'Hui in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,495,561 (Holt). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns printing a plurality of pages of print data to the front and back surfaces of a sheet of paper. In one aspect of the invention, a plurality of pages are sorted into pages for a front surface arranged on the front surface of the sheet and pages for a back surface are arranged on the back surface of sheet. The arrangement is based on the output form of the plurality of pages as output from an application. In addition, in a case where the sheet is cut into a plurality of areas, it is determined how pages for the front surface of the sheet and pages for the back surface of the sheet are to be arranged on front and back surfaces of a plurality of cut areas. Accordingly, it is possible to output print material such that a plurality of pages output from an application are arranged in a plurality of areas in which front and back surfaces of a sheet are respectively segmented.

Turning now to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus for generating print data to output print material wherein a plurality of pages output from an application are arranged in a plurality of areas in which a front surface and a back

surface of a sheet are respectively segmented. The apparatus comprises a sorting means for sorting the plurality of pages into front surface pages to be arranged on the front surface of the sheet and back surface pages to be arranged on the back surface of the sheet based on the output form of the plurality of pages output from the application, a setting means for, in a case where the sheet is cut into the plurality of areas, determining the front surface pages and back surface pages to be arranged on the front surfaces and the back surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut, and setting arranged positions of the determined pages for the front surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut and the determined pages for the back surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut, and a generating means for generating the print data to output the print material such that the plurality of pages are arranged in the plurality of areas on the front surface and the back surface of the sheet, wherein the front surface pages are arranged on the front surface of the sheet and the back surface pages are arranged on the back surface of the sheet, in consecutive order, respectively.

Claims 11, 21, and 31 are respectively directed to a method, a computer medium, and a computer program which are seen to generally correspond with Claim 1.

Applicants submit that support for the “sort means” of Claim 1 and the “sort step” of Claims 11, 21, and 31 is found in the specification of the present invention in Figs. 29 and 30 and their related descriptions. Furthermore, support for the “setting means” of Claim 1 and the “setting step” of Claims 11, 21 and 31 is found in Fig. 20, elements S2003 and S2004 and their respective descriptions. Finally, support for the “generating means” of Claim 1 and the “generating step” of Claims 11, 21 and 31 is found in Fig. 2, element 203, Fig. 19 and their related descriptions.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied reference, namely Bourdeau'Hui, is not seen to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31. In

particular, Bourdeau'Hui is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of sorting a plurality of pages into front surface pages to be arranged on a front surface of a sheet and back surface pages to be arranged on the back surface of the sheet based on an output form of the plurality of pages output from an application, determining, in a case where the sheet is cut into a plurality of areas, the front surface pages and back surface pages to be arranged on the front surfaces and the back surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut, and setting arranged positions of the determined pages for the front surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut and the determined pages for the back surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut, and generating the print data based on the arranged positions to output the print material such that the plurality of pages are arranged in the plurality of areas on the front surface and the back surface of the sheet wherein the front surface pages are arranged on the front surface of the sheet and the back surface pages are arranged on the back surface of the sheet, in consecutive order, respectively.

In contrast to the present invention, Bourdeau'Hui discloses a process of laying out print data of 32 pages so that the data can be printed on a single sheet. Additionally, Bourdeau'Hu lays out print data of a respective two pages for upper and lower surfaces on a sheet, which is segmented into four areas, when a print of a proof sheet is needed.

Thus, Bourdeau'Hui relates to printing process for obtaining a bookbinding print out with the layout of successive pages, such as the 32 pages specifically disclosed in Bourdeau'Hui, determined such that a page order is serialized when the printout is folded. Bourdeau'Hui further discloses setting arranging positions of front and back pages so as to be laid out in page order when a print material is folded. That is, the pages are laid out in order, "1", "16", "9", "8", ... "5", "12" on the front surface. (See Fig.4 of Bourdeau'Hui.) Bourdeau'Hui also discloses changing the arranging positions of pages according to a user setting. (See Figs. 4 and

5 of Bourdead'hui.) However, Bourdead'hui fails to disclose or suggest sorting a plurality of pages into front surface pages to be arranged on a front surface of a sheet and back surface pages to be arranged on the back surface of the sheet based on an output form of the plurality of pages output from an application. Nor does Bourdead'hui disclose determining, in a case where the sheet is cut into a plurality of areas, the front surface pages and back surface pages to be arranged on the front surfaces and the back surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut, and setting arranged positions of the determined pages for the front surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut and the determined pages for the back surfaces of the plurality of areas as cut, and generating the print data based on the arranged positions to output the print material such that the plurality of pages are arranged in the plurality of areas on the front surface and the back surface of the sheet wherein the front surface pages are arranged on the front surface of the sheet and the back surface pages are arranged on the back surface of the sheet, in consecutive order, respectively

In addition, Applicants have reviewed Holt and submit that nothing in Holt is found to cure the deficiencies of Bourdead'hui.

In light of these deficiencies in Bourdeaud'hui and Holt as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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